



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AUSTIN, TEXAS
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Directors
Directors, Local Health Departments
Directors, Independent WIC Local Agencies
Herman Horn, Chief, Bureau of Regional/Local Health Operations

FROM: Barbara Keir, Director
Public Health Nutrition and Education
Bureau of Nutrition Services

DATE: June 9, 2000

SUBJECT: Nutrition Services Program Integrity (NSPI) Workgroup - Needs Assessment Survey

The Nutrition Services Program Integrity Workgroup (NSPI) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Southwest Region, under the direction of Ms. Sondra Ralph, Regional Director has proposed that a regional nutrition education teleconference take place in Spring 2001, to enhance knowledge, skills and motivation for WIC staff who provide nutrition education to WIC participants in the multi-state region.

To further that effort, the NSPI Workgroup has developed a needs assessment tool to be completed by local agencies in various states. We are asking that each local agency copy and distribute this survey to WIC staff who are responsible for providing nutrition education and training.

As indicated in the letter from Ms. Ralph, USDA, the attached survey should be filled out by local agency directors and WIC staff involved with nutrition education in your local agency. Feedback from as many staff as possible on this issue is much appreciated in order to plan a training meaningful to all staff who provide nutrition education, in both group and individual settings.

The State Agency will compile results and send to USDA. Please return completed surveys to the State Agency no later than **Tuesday, June 20, 2000**. Please fax to (512) 458-7446 or mail to:

Texas Department of Health
Delores Preece, Bureau of Nutrition Services
1100 W. 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Van Eck, Nutrition Education Coordinator, at (512) 458-7440 or Linda Brumble, Training Coordinator at (512) 406-0740. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Attachment

Needs for Nutrition Education Teleconference

How can you make a difference in WIC nutrition education? We want your ideas and suggestions on the training you think will help you make a difference for your participants. The following is a list of proposed training topics developed by the Southwest Region Nutrition Services Program Integrity Workgroup.

Within each category (“Teaching skills”, “Motivating client to change,” “Other”) rank listed topics in order of preference with “1” being most important to you. We would also appreciate any additional topics or comments you may have.

Teaching Skills (Rank 1-7)

- ___ Speaking in front of a group
- ___ Teaching one-on-one more effectively
- ___ Getting clients to participate/interact
- ___ Making nutrition education fun
- ___ Teaching children – special considerations
- ___ Getting myself out of the “mid-afternoon slump” and keeping nutrition education interesting
- ___ Effectively presenting nutrition education

Motivating Clients to change (Rank 1-4)

- ___ “Connecting” with your clients
- ___ Helping clients understand how small changes add up to lifestyle changes
- ___ Cultural influences on education
- ___ Latest tips on changing client behavior

Other (Rank 1-5)

- ___ Developing nutrition education lessons
- ___ Marketing nutrition education to clients
- ___ Learning how other WIC programs do nutrition education
- ___ Coordinating with other community programs
- ___ Evaluating effectiveness of your nutrition education

Additional Topics and comments: